



02 April 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The end of a very strange term is at hand and I wanted to contact parents and caregivers to let them know of recent developments.

I wish to say at the outset that we still do not have a definitive decision by the Queensland Government of what the expectations will be for schools at the start of Term 2. We should have some form of clarity in the next week on any decisions that will be made. I wish to assure parents that we will keep you fully informed over the holiday break of these changes and what it means for the school community for next term.

Our staff has spent a hugely productive week collaborating within their grades and organising work for the students to complete at home in the event of a school closure in Term 2.

I would like to request that you allow your children to have a holiday at home for the next two weeks (still get them to read and say their tables every day).

In the event of a school closure in Term 2:

- Parents/students can contact their class teachers by email between 9.30am and 12 noon each day with queries about the work. Teachers will be available during this time to answer emails and give directions.
- In the **Primary School**, work will be uploaded into the year level folders at the beginning of each week.
- Previously organised printed copies for **Primary Students** will also be available at the beginning of each week in front of the School Office.
- All information for **Secondary Students** will be on their usual learning platform.

The teachers at St Mary's will be continually planning and preparing work for your children to complete at home should a closure eventuate in Term 2.

Please note that the following has been considered when making decisions about how this learning will take place:

- How the children currently learn (majority "hands – on" in the case of **Prep/Year One, very little screen time**)
- Access to devices/internet/printers
- How many children in a family or working parents will need access to the above devices
- License agreements between TCS and companies whose product is available to us

- Priorities in terms of curriculum, what is most important and where will this learning lead us for the remainder of the year

The teachers have adjusted their Term 2 curriculum to ensure the tasks are suitable for home learning. When logging onto the school intranet, you will see the folders are set up consistently. Once you open the folders, the work will be presented differently for each *grade*. Some classes are used to working with PowerPoint for example, so they will be using this application.

The students in the [Lower Primary School](#) will require your input and guidance with some tasks, whilst students in the [Upper Primary](#) will possibly require less guidance. Likewise in the [Secondary School](#), it would be an expectation that all students liaise with their subject teacher and work almost independently.

We recommend setting up a daily routine that will work for you (some of the children will be able to tell you what they do minute by minute at school).

[In the early years for instance, if you need your little person on Reading Eggs for 20 minutes to help another child, be assured this is a very valid learning activity and if it works for you, that is a win!](#)

Hopefully by now you have logged onto the intranet to have a look. If it is not working for you (it is always worth trying a couple of times), please e-mail your child's teacher and we can ask our IT Technician, Joshua Taylor, to look into any issues.

I want to thank our dedicated staff for their continued support of our students during this very challenging time and to all our parents and carers for your positive support of the staff. Their wellbeing is also a key factor in our planning and preparation.

School Communications

Although we are likely to commence under new arrangements in Term 2, we will continue to communicate with you through the normal school channels whenever new information is available.

You can contact the school by email at goondiwindi@twb.catholic.edu.au or by phoning the School Office on 46 711 730.

Kind regards

Brett Pollard
Principal